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SUBJECT: LULA'S INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SCHEDULE FOR 2005

1. According to the Ministry of External Relations, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will make at least thirteen international trips during 2005, continuing the feverish pace of his first two years in office. Lula's principal foreign policy objectives during his travels will continue to be to obtain international support for a permanent Brazilian seat at the United National Security Council and to enhance South-South strategic cooperation. Throughout his travels, the President will also emphasize investment opportunities in Brazil.

2. Following is Lula's planned international itinerary:

a. January: Davos, Switzerland, to attend the World Economic Forum;  
b. February: Guiana (courtesy visit) and Suriname (Caricom meeting) -- the last two South American countries unvisited by Lula;  
c. March: Montevideo for Uruguayan President Vasquez's inauguration;  
d. April: Africa (most likely Nigeria, Senegal, and Tunisia) - this would be Lula's third African trip;  
e. May: Japan and South Korea for "reciprocal" visits (Presidents Junichiro Koizume and Roh Moo-Hyun visited Brazil in 2004);  
f. June: Asuncion for a Mercosul meeting, and, if invited, Scotland for G-8 Summit;  
g. July: Paris for the celebration of French National Day, Lisbon for a summit meeting of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CLDP);  
h. September: New York for the opening of UNGA;  
i. October: Moscow (President Putin visited Brazil in late 2004);  
j. December: Montevideo to attend a Mercosul meeting.

3. In addition, on May 10-11, Brazil will host the Arab-Latin American Summit. Following past practice, it is also very likely that Lula will travel extensively to other regional capitals for various events not yet scheduled.

4. Comment: While complaints may continue to arise about Lula's frequent absences from Brazil, on the whole the President's travels generally generate positive publicity and garner public support for Brazil's, and Lula's, emerging image as a world leader. But one aspect of his travels may gain heightened press coverage in 2005. The new Presidential aircraft, an Airbus A-391, will likely enter service in February. Over the next few months, Brazilian pundits may enjoy citing the number 56,713,976.00, the cost in dollars of the new aircraft.

DANILOVICH